

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

A minor-end loading carton is provided that includes a bottom panel opposing a top panel, and a second pair of opposing panels connecting the bottom panel to the top panel to form a rectangular body having a first minor end and a second minor end. The minor ends may be closable via a plurality of flaps foldably connected to the panels. A method is further provided for loading and shipping elongate materials in a minor-end loading carton. According to one embodiment of the invention, the method includes loading the products downward through a second minor end of a minor-end loading carton against the inside of the closed first minor end while the first minor end is substantially horizontal. The products may include elongate materials, such as stalk produce, which are preferably oriented parallel to the minor ends extending from a first panel to a second panel.